REMARKS

Claims 1-45 were examined by the Office, and all claims are rejected. With this response claims 12, 26 and 40 are amended, and claims 13, 27 and 41 are cancelled. All amendments are fully supported by the specification as originally filed. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in view of the following discussion.

Claim Rejections Under § 112

In section 4, on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 12-13, 26-27 and 40-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 12, 26 and 40 are rejected for reciting the trademark/trade name SYMBIAN™, and claims 13, 27 and 41 are rejected for reciting the trademark/trade name Microsoft WINDOWS™. In response, claims 12,, 26, and 40 are amended to replace the trademarks/trade names with descriptive terms corresponding to the products sold under the trademarks/trade names. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are definite in view of the amendments. In addition, applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 13, 27 and 41 is moot in view of the cancellation of those claims.

Claim Rejections Under § 103

In section 6, on page 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-5, 8-19, 22-33 and 36-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Schilit et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,674,453) in view of "Sams Teach Yourself Microsoft Internet Explorer 5 in 10 Minutes," by Jill T. Freeze (hereinafter Freeze), and in further view of Dutta et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,717,600). Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is not disclosed or suggested by the cited references, alone or in combination, because the cited references fail to disclose or suggest all of the limitations recited in claim 1. The cited references at least fail to disclose or suggest determining the distance between a first point on the view window and a first link area comprising a plurality of links, and determining the distance between the first point and a second link area comprising a plurality of links. The cited references also fail to disclose or suggest determining whether the first link area or the second link area is nearest to the first point on said view window. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references at least fail to disclose or suggest the limitations of claim 1 identified above.

On page 5 of the Office Action, the Office acknowledges that Freeze and Schilit fail to disclose determining the distance between a first point on a view window and a first link area comprising a plurality of links, determining the distance between the first point on said view window and a second link area comprising a plurality of links, determining whether the first link area or the second link area is nearest to the first point on the view window, and returning these links for use in a new link list, and relies upon Dutta for this teaching. The Office asserts that Dutta discloses that distances between the cursor and the object to select are determined, and selection is based on which is closer. Applicant respectfully disagrees that Dutta discloses what the Office has asserted Dutta to disclose.

In particular, Dutta does not disclose or suggest determining the distances between the cursor and the object to select, and selecting the object based on which is closer. Instead, Dutta only discloses that focus is changed to an item if a cursor moves toward it, and the direction of movement of the cursor predicts the item the user is moving towards. See Dutta Abstract. Therefore, the prediction of which item may be selected is based on the direction of movement, and is entirely independent of how close the items may or may not be to the cursor. Since the prediction is based on the movement direction of the cursor, Dutta does not disclose or suggest determining the distances between the cursor and the object to select. See Dutta column 5, line 67—column 6, line 3 (the focus of a given selectable item is changed if a cursor moves in a direction towards the selectable item).

As shown in Figure 7 of Dutta, if cursor (700) is moved in a direction indicated by path (720) the focus of item (758) would change, and item (758) would be selected if an input selection were to be received anywhere along path (720). In contrast to claim 1, the direction of movement of the cursor determines the selectable item that the user is moving towards, and Dutta does not disclose or suggest determining the distances between the cursor and the selectable item. See Dutta column 6, lines 11-13. Even in a situation in which the cursor moved along path (730), and no input selection were received after a predetermined distance or time, Dutta still fails to disclose or suggest determining the distance between a first point on the view window and a first link area comprising a plurality of links, and determining the distance between the first point and a second link area comprising a plurality of links, because focus is only shifted to objects along the path (730) regardless of whether other objects may be closer. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above Dutta fails to make up for the deficiencies in

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the teachings of Freeze and Schilit identified by the Office, and the cited references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the limitations recited in claim 1.

Independent claims 15 and 29 are rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, and contain limitations similar to those recited in claim 1. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above in relation to claim 1, claims 15 and 29 are not disclosed or suggested by the cited references.

Claims 2-5, 8-14, 16-19, 22-28, 30-33 and 36-45 all ultimately depend from an independent claim, and are not disclosed or suggested by the cited references at least in view of their dependencies.
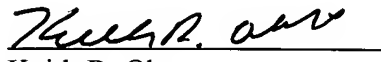
In section 7, on page 10 of the Office Action, claims 6-7, 20-21 and 34-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schilit, Freeze and Dutta, and in further view of "Microsoft Windows XP Unleashed," by Terry W. Ogletree (hereinafter Ogletree). Claims 6-7, 20-21 and 34-35 all ultimately depend from an independent claim, and therefore are not disclosed or suggested by the cited references at least in view of their dependencies.

Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. The undersigned hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge Deposit Account No. 23-0442 for any fee deficiency required to submit this response.

Respectfully submitted,

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